

Opinion

OUR VIEW

A HORRIBLE STATE LAW

Anti-discrimination law violates rights

Focus on the Family hates the new revisions to Colorado's anti-discrimination law. The powerful Christian organization has warned of sexual deviants entering restrooms intended for the opposite sex, relieving themselves near children and possibly doing far worse.

Focus is right to oppose the revised law, but it has been expressing the wrong objection — up until now.

The revised law adds "sexual orientation" to a laundry list of attributes one cannot use as a basis for discrimination in places of public accommodation, including restrooms. It gives "sexual orientation" equal status to "disability, race, creed, color, religion, sex, marital status, familial status, national origin, or ancestry."

Any living human is protected by nearly any category of this law, as all humans have a "sex" identity, or a "sexual orientation," and all are part of a "race," etc.

With the inclusion of "sexual orientation" and its broad definition in the law, a man who self identifies as a woman will be allowed to use restrooms intended for females. It's this aspect of the law that Focus and Dobson have dwelled upon in their media campaign against it.

The law is self-defeating, with or without the new revisions, and the addition of "sexual orientation." It aims to end discrimination, but ultimately paves the way for it by forcing relationships some individuals may not want. It would force a homosexual, for example, to have a business or rental relationship with a religious extremist who believes homosexuals should burn in hell — a person such as the Rev. Fred Phelps, a hatemonger who pickets funerals to denounce homosexuals. His entire religion is one of homosexual hatred. Taken literally, this law would force the church hosting a soldier's funeral to welcome funeral picketers Phelps and family to the service, so long as they behave. After all, one can't discriminate on the basis of another person's religious belief, no matter how disgusting it may be.

The law is flawed, but so are concerns about perverts in restrooms. Felons don't wait for legislative permission to use a gun before shooting up a mall. Likewise, those who would harm children haven't been waiting for state permission to use the ladies' room. The public understands this. Besides, communities with laws similar to the state revision, such as Boulder, haven't seen a surge in lavatory molestation and rape.

But the law is genuinely dangerous, and Focus is finally showing us why. Focus legal analyst Bruce Hausknecht told WorldNetDaily that an exemption in the law allows religious groups to continue teaching biblical condemnations of homosexuality and other religious judgments, in "a place that is principally used for religious purposes." As the law states, such places include churches, temples, mosques, synagogues and the like.

The exemption stands as an affront to freedoms of religion and speech, because it respects the expression of specified beliefs only in the enclosed areas of a building used primarily for religion. Inherent in that acknowledgment is disrespect for those particular views outside the walls of a church. The law, therefore, could be used to challenge the right of a street preacher to distribute pamphlets some might find offensive or his right to verbally denounce same-sex marriage in public. Likewise, it could be used to impede peaceful Klan rallies in the public square, or the right of a homosexual activist to publicly denounce the dominance of heterosexuality from a sidewalk. It could restrict unpopular speech of any kind. This is the danger of trying to engineer thoughts and words through fashionably correct feel-good legislation.

The permission to express discriminatory beliefs, but only in church, comes in a bill that tries to prohibit the publication of discriminatory messages by owners and managers of places of public accommodation. Section 24-34-701 of the statute forbids publication and distribution of anything "that is intended or calculated to discriminate or actually discriminates against any disability, race, creed" etc., in a manner that advocates deprivation of access to a slate of listed public accommodations, such as housing. This could easily be used to prevent editorial writers or bloggers, who also own rental property, from challenging the law itself. To challenge the law, after all, is to advocate a right of discrimination or discriminatory expressions and doing so is forbidden. It means a landlord who disagrees with the anti-discrimination law can't stand on a street corner and distribute fliers expressing her disgust with it. It could hardly be more un-American.

"There are those who simply by publishing Christian materials could find themselves charged with a violation of this statute," Hausknecht told WorldNetDaily.

It could likewise be used against those who publish anti-Christian messages, as Christians are protected from discrimination under the law. And it discriminates against atheists. In what church, after all, is a homophobic atheist supposed to contain his expressions of disapproval that can be made only in a church? Atheists don't have churches.

The First Amendment wasn't written to protect popular expressions or benign religious beliefs that don't offend. It was written to protect those expressions and beliefs the majority may not like — the expressions and beliefs likely to be targets for censorship by the state.

Most people don't like preachers of hate, such as Phelps or the Rev. Jeremiah Wright — a man who promotes racial hostility forbidden by this law. Protecting the rights of people like them, however, has for 200-plus years maintained a large platform of freedom and tolerance for everyone else. Unpleasant thoughts, words and beliefs don't threaten our freedoms. Censorship does, telling us what we may say and write, and whom we must associate with. Colorado's anti-discrimination law discriminates, while eroding our most basic liberties — for the sake of tolerance.

AND SR.**Died June 11, 2008.**

Colorado Springs resident. Survived by his wife, Bernadine; three sons, Lorenzo Jr., David Ber-
rill; and a daughter, Doriena Longmire. Visitation, noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, Shrine of Re-
membrance "America the Beautiful" Chapel of Roses. Service, 2 p.m. Monday, Shrine of Remembrance "Amer-
ica the Beautiful" Chapel of Roses. Private inurnment.

Died June 11, 2008.

Colorado Springs resident. Survived by his wife, Lisa; a son, Halan A.T.; and a daughter,
Lisa. Service, 5 p.m. Monday, Preeminence Christian Fellowship, 1841 N. Circle Drive. All Veterans Burial

ON**Died June 11, 2008.**

Colorado Springs resident. Survived by a son, James; and two daughters, Donna Buckman and Janet
Buckman. Service, 11 a.m. Monday, Preeminence Christian Fellowship, 1841 N. Circle Drive. All Veterans Burial

Funeraries & Life Tributes

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ORR, JR.

Arnold A. Orr, Jr.
August 13, 1921 - June 9, 2008

Arnold was born August 13, 1921 in McClave, CO to Arnold A. & Rosie J. Orr. He died June 9, 2008 in Colorado Springs, CO leaving behind his loving wife of 62 years, Evelyn R. Orr; daughters, Cynthia (Art) Ott and Deborah (Jerry) Ellzey all of AZ; son, Arnold A. Orr, III of Colorado Springs; grandchildren Brandon Ott and Curtis A. (Becky) Ellzey; four step-grandchildren, Greg, Cathi, Meri & Jay; two sisters, Lela Centner & Irene Brookhart and was preceded in death by his brother James M. Orr.

Arnold served as General Manager for the El Paso County Telephone Company for many years and served in the US Army.

Visitation will be held Friday, June 13, 2008 from 4PM-8PM at The Springs Funeral Services, 3115 E. Platte Avenue.

Funeral Services will be Saturday, June 14, 2008 at 11:00AM at The Springs Funeral Services with interment to follow at Memorial Gardens Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made in lieu of flowers to Ellicott United Methodist Church, 23252 Highway 94, Calhan, CO 80808

THE SPRINGS 3115 East
FUNERAL SERVICES Platte Ave.
328-1793
www.TheSpringsFuneralServices.com

PERRYMAN**Scott James Perryman**

Scott James Perryman went to be with our Lord on Monday, June 9, 2008.

He was born in Cheyenne, WY on January 13, 1958. He graduated from Air Academy High School in 1976. Scott earned his BA Degree in Mathematics at Bellevue College, NE in 1983 and later earned a BS Degree in Accounting at Regis University.

Scott is survived by his parents, James & Loraine (Lori) Perryman; brothers, Kirk Perryman of Colo. Spgs. and Mark Perryman (Tammy) of Owatonna, MN. Other family members mourning his loss: niece, Felicia and nephews Eric and Adam of Owatonna, MN and Joshua (Krystal) of Atlanta, GA and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Scott had a great love for our Lord and His Holy Word. He faithfully read Christian Scriptures, enjoyed painting, writing special praises to the Lord, being with his family, watching travel films and spending time with his dog, Natasha. He will be greatly missed because of his genuine caring and compassionate heart.

A memorial service will be held at Woodmen Valley Chapel (Stone Chapel), 290 E Rockrimmon Blvd. on Monday, June 16 at 1:00.

Memorial contributions can be given to The Salvation Army or the Marion House.

VA Burial Benefits
for Veterans and their family

TONER

Joan A. Toner

Joan A. (Nobis) Toner, beloved wife of Brigadier General Richard J. Toner, USAF (Ret), passed away on June 11th, 2008, from complications of diabetes and heart disease. Joan was born in Medford, MA, on February 8, 1935, the daughter of the late Edward N. and Lillian (Noble) Nobis. She attended public schools in Medford and then graduated from Boston College, a member of the university's first co-ed class. She taught elementary education for one year in Medford, and then began a 30 year odyssey of world travels as an Air Force wife. During their career, the Toners lived in six countries in Europe and Asia as well as 12 states within the U.S. She continued her teaching career intermittently in Florida, France, Kansas and Ohio.

After her children started school, Joan turned her talents and effort to volunteer services at each of the bases where they were assigned. She was an active member of the Officers' Wives Clubs, Family Services, and served in many other programs in the off-base communities where they lived, including childhood and adult literacy programs.

After her husband retired from military service in 1987, the couple purchased and operated a country inn in Lenox, MA, owning the business until 1999 when they retired and moved to Colorado Springs. Joan was a volunteer in literacy programs in retirement as well as a facilitator for language improvement for newcomers to America. She will be remembered by all who knew her for her exceptional courage and integrity along with a unique combination of indomitable mental and moral strength and incredible gentleness. She was the loving and devoted mother of three children: Scott Toner of Stafford, VA, Christine Moody and her husband Michael of Merritt Island, FL and Daniel Toner and his wife Anne of Southampton, England. She also leaves two grandchildren, Daniel and Colleen Moody.

A memorial service will be celebrated at the US Air Force Academy Memorial Pavilion at the Academy cemetery at 10:30 AM on June 18th, followed by inurnment at the Columbarium. After the service, a reception will be held in Joan's honor at Doolittle Hall (the Association of Graduates headquarters).

In lieu of flowers, a remembrance in her name can be sent to the American Diabetes Association (www.diabetes.org) or the American Heart Association (www.americanheart.org).

Memoriams**ELDER**

In Loving Memory
Gloria Lee Cousins Elder

14, 1926 - June 7, 2006